



CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

15 JULY 2022

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Calaveras – Several Explosives Found in Three Incidents Over One Week

(U) The Calaveras County Sheriff's bomb squad responded to three reports of explosives within one week, the Sheriff's Office announced Wednesday. On 22 June, deputies searched a suspicious vehicle and found a loaded handgun and a homemade explosive device. The following day, a landfill in Milton reported what they believed to be live ordnance while sorting garbage. That ordnance was identified as a projectile or rocket from an RPG. On 30 June, the bomb squad responded to a report of blasting caps that had been dug up during a construction project just outside Groveland. Authorities later found about 500 aging and degraded blasting caps. All devices were countercharged and rendered safe.

SOURCE: 14 July 2022, [KCRA](#)

(U) Inglewood – One Million Fake Pills Containing Fentanyl Seized in DEA's Biggest California Bust

(U) About one million fake pills containing fentanyl were seized during a record-breaking bust at an Inglewood home on 5 July, the DEA's biggest bust in California according to officials. The pills have an estimated street value of \$15 to \$20 million. Agents with the DEA's High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Group 48 made the bust following an investigation of an LA-area drug trafficking group believed to be linked to the Sinaloa Cartel. During the investigation, they identified Southern California-based drug couriers and stash house managers who were tasked with distribution. DEA officials did not say if any arrests were made, and the investigation into the drug trafficking organization is ongoing.

SOURCE: 14 July 2022, [CBS News](#)

(U) San Jose – Homeless Camp Bunker Search Nets \$100K Stash of Stolen Goods

(U) Six people have been arrested in San Jose after officers discovered an underground bunker at a homeless encampment with \$100,000 of stolen goods. Officers recovered the stolen property that was taken to the bunker near a creek after it was stolen from a nearby business. The thieves stole power tools, three shotguns, ammunition, and three pickup trucks that police said were used to transport the haul to a bunker near Coyote Creek in San Jose.

SOURCE: 14 July 2022, [Associated Press](#)

(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER

(U) California – CBP Officers Discover Over 100 Pounds of Fentanyl Concealed in Food Products

(U) Otay Mesa – On 3 July 3, CBP officers conducted a cursory inspection of a vehicle and discovered packages wrapped in plastic concealed inside food products. The occupants of the vehicle, one with a California identification card, were escorted to the inspection area. CBP officers searched the entire vehicle and found 46 packages containing fentanyl hidden within flour bags, ground coffee cans, creamer cans and powdered milk cans. In total, CBP seized 42.46 pounds of fentanyl powder and 59.08 pounds of fentanyl pills have an estimated street value of more than \$1.2 million.

SOURCE: 14 July 2022, [US CBP](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) Colorado – Third Arrest Made in Alleged Colorado Election Security Breach

(U) Denver – Sandra Brown, a former elections manager, turned herself in Monday in response to a warrant issued for her arrest on suspicion of conspiracy to commit criminal impersonation and attempting to influence a public servant. Brown worked for Mesa County Clerk Tina Peters and her chief deputy, Belinda Knisley, who are being prosecuted for allegedly allowing a copy of a hard drive to be made during an update of election equipment in May 2021. State election officials first became aware of a security breach last summer when a photo and video of confidential voting system passwords were posted on social media and a conservative website.

SOURCE: 14 July 2022, [Associated Press](#)

(U) District of Columbia – Man Indicted for Bias-Motivated Assaults of Men in Washington, DC Park

(U) Washington – A federal grand jury charged Michael Thomas Pruden of Maryland with five counts of assault on federal land, one count of impersonating a federal officer, and hate crimes. The indictment alleges that on five separate dates from 2018 to 2021, Pruden went to Meridian Hill Park, which is informally known in the LGBTQ community as a meeting place and assaulted five men with a chemical irritant while pretending to be a Park Police officer. Pruden was arrested last year in connection with a similar attack at a federal park in Alexandria, Virginia, in March 2021, but was acquitted.

SOURCE: 14 July 2022, [US DOJ](#) [ABC6](#)

(U) New York – Federal Grand Jury Indicts Mass Shooter on Federal Hate Crimes and Firearms Charge

(U) Buffalo – A federal grand jury charged the alleged Buffalo, New York mass shooter with federal hate crimes. Payton Gendron is accused of storming a Tops grocery store on 14 May and gunning down 10 people, all of whom were Black. Gendron was allegedly motivated by a racist, far-right conspiracy known as replacement theory. The 27-count indictment charges Gendron with 14 hate crimes and 13 firearms offenses. The indictment also starts the clock for the Attorney General to consider the death penalty.

SOURCE: 14 July 2022, [US DOJ](#) [ABC News](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Germany – Military Officer Found Guilty of Plotting Terrorism

(U) Frankfurt – A military officer who had posed as a Syrian refugee was sentenced to five and a half years in prison today for his role in a far-right terrorist plot to murder prominent public figures. “Franco A” was caught in 2017 trying to collect a loaded gun hidden in a bathroom at the Vienna airport. His fingerprints later revealed his second, fake identity as a Syrian refugee, setting off an investigation that would span three countries and multiple intelligence agencies. Prosecutors have accused him of planning assassinations using his fake Syrian identity with the intention of stoking growing fears over immigration in Germany and has pushed the country to confront the threat of far-right infiltration in the military and the police. He was convicted of plotting terrorism, illegal possession of weapons, and fraud.

SOURCE: 15 July 2022, [New York Times](#)

(U) North Korea – Microsoft Links Holy Ghost Ransomware Operation to North Korean Hackers

(U) Pyongyang – An emerging threat cluster originating from North Korea has been linked to developing and using ransomware in cyberattacks targeting small businesses since September 2021. The group, which calls itself H0lyGh0st after the ransomware payload of the same name, is being tracked by the Microsoft Threat Intelligence Center under the moniker DEV-0530, a designation assigned for unknown,

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emerging, or a developing group of threat activity. Targeted entities primarily include small-to-midsize businesses such as manufacturing organizations, banks, schools, and event and meeting planning companies.

SOURCE: 15 July 2022, [The Hacker News](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

(U) FOR QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, PLEASE EMAIL STAC@CALOES.CA.GOV, OR CALL 916-636-2900.

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